

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

FINAL

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Wheeler-Schebler Carburetor Company

other names/site number Wheeler Arts Community

2. Location

street & number 1234 Barth Avenue N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Indianapolis N/A ☐ vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Marion code 097 zip code 46203

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. ( ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

### Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☒ building  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object  
☐ landscape

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

### Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUST/PROC/EXTR: Manufacturing Facility

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling

SOCIAL: Civic

RECREATION/CULTURE: Museum

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER:

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls CONCRETE

STUCCO

roof SYNTHETICS: Rubber

other STONE

BRICK

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance****Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

INDUSTRY

**Period of Significance**

1911-1951

**Significant Dates**

1911-12

1919

1928

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Bohlen &amp; Son

Bass, Herbert L.

**9. Major Bibliographic References****Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☒ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission,

Wheeler-Schebler Carburetor Company  
Name of Property

Marion IN  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.25 acres

### UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 1 6 5 7 3 5 6 0 4 4 0 0 2 0 0  
Zone Easting Northing

3 1 6 5 7 3 6 2 0 4 4 0 0 1 2 0  
Zone Easting Northing

2 1 6 5 7 3 6 2 0 4 4 0 0 2 0 0  
Zone Easting Northing

4 1 6 5 7 3 5 6 0 4 4 0 0 1 2 0  
Zone Easting Northing

☐ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Alan Conant  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 02-03-2003  
street & number 10818 Jessie Court telephone 317/ 826-4028  
city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46236

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

##### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

##### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

##### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Wheeler Arts Community, LP  
street & number 1030 Orange Street telephone 317/ 634-5079  
city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46203

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Wheeler Arts Community  
Marion County, Indiana

Narrative Description

This former factory complex lies in a commercial/residential area southeast of downtown Indianapolis. (see site map following photograph list) This two-building industrial complex includes a sectioned two-story *factory building*. The one-story section (Building C), parking lot, and separate *boiler house* were not included in the tax-credit rehab project. The Southeast Neighborhood Development Corp. has renovated (2001-2002) the boiler house building as their new office. The main factory portion was built in three *sections*, from north to south, forming a rectangular plan along Barth Avenue. The building abuts new sidewalks along Barth Avenue and Sanders Street. There is an alley abutting the west side, with no sidewalk.

There is a full basement under the two northern sections of the building; this has been cleared of debris and old utilities, and cleaned and painted, with new storage areas available to tenants. There were five stairways originally; they all remain except for the southeast corner stairway, in Building A, which has been floored over. The adjacent freight elevator, also in the southeast corner has been closed off. An original freight elevator remains in use in the northeast corner of Building A. The northeast corner and southwest corner stairways have been restored, with new metal railings. The former main stairway, in Building B, has been restored and retains its original railings.

The *northernmost section*, Building "A" according to architect's original drawings, was constructed in 1911-1912, these dates appearing on the drawings. The two-story concrete frame structure is five-bays wide facing Barth Avenue and six-bays long facing Sanders Street. Some bays have grouped wood-sash windows (restored and replacement), other bays have replacement multi-pane industrial-type metal sash windows, of a "hopper" type. These windows fill each bay between the concrete piers. Each bay features a slightly stepped parapet with a new coping. Centered in the flat roof there is a pyramid-style metal-framed skylight which has been restored and re-glazed to admit light to the first and second floors -- through a new second floor opening. New metal downspouts are in place around the building.

Adjacent to the skylight there is a c1960 peaked-roof metal shed which housed industrial blowers formerly used with the electrostatic painting equipment. There is also a concrete water tank support and an elevator housing remaining.

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Wheeler Arts Community  
Marion County, Indiana

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**Narrative Description, cont.**

The concrete exterior walls, originally poured with a rough surface, had a skim coat of stucco applied. The cracked and broken concrete has been repaired, infilled, and painted. All the windows and doors have been replaced or refurbished.

The centered entrance, on the north façade, facing Sanders Street, has a new concrete loading dock and pedestrian ramp. This entrance is equipped with new metal railings and gate. There is a new metal awning and vertical sign which reads: "Wheeler Arts."

The interior spaces of the complex now consist of offices, apartments, two new hallways running north-south, a central hall running east-west, and a bridged opening below the original skylight, which has been restored. A typical office space would be no. 111 (photograph 20) with finished surfaces, and new door and window trim. This office also incorporates a new window to the hallway.

The bridge construction, under the skylight (Photographs 25, 26, 27), echoes the industrial decorative scheme which employs original elements. The bridge runs north-south, at a slight angle, and consists of heavy, black-painted pipe-frame railings with pierced flat metal panels. This pipe railing and paneling continues around entire rectangular floor opening, cut into the concrete second story flooring. Cut ends of exposed I-beams protrude from the walls below the skylight. Electrical conduit is also exposed and painted.

Original flooring, throughout the building, has been refinished and retains original factory floor patterns of wood and concrete. This flooring consists of narrow boards laid over wider wood subflooring over concrete slab floors and tiled floors; some concrete flooring remains exposed. This wood flooring was originally used for machinery support, sound deadening, and oil absorption. A loading bay on the west side has been removed and replaced by an entrance to the new theater space.

The *middle section*, Building "B," was constructed 1919-1920 and is built of concrete with red brick facing. It is two-stories tall, four-bays wide, and features a recessed, random ashlar limestone-faced entrance added c1960. This has been left intact, with a new brushed-metal awning in place, duplicating the original. This entrance had replaced a pair of arched, single-leaf door openings. This remodeling also added a garage bay and two door openings. In this building section, the roof is also flat, with three sawtooth metal-framed skylights which illuminated offices and shops below. These have been refurbished, with original hardware intact, and admit light into upper story hallways and loft apartments.



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Wheeler Arts Community  
Marion County, Indiana

Narrative Description, cont.

This middle section was built around an earlier two-story section, portions of which have been left as is. This earlier section had extended from the southwest corner of Building A. There is a concrete water table which skirts the entire building. This water table covers six-light casement windows which opened to the cellar, they are currently sealed off. Large metal casement windows with limestone sills and former loading bays fill out the remainder of the east façade. Large metal casement windows appear on the west façade as well. Building B has structured rowlock brick lintels at all the openings. There is a slightly projecting header course blind parapet topped with limestone blocks. The brickwork remains in good condition and has been cleaned and re-pointed.

The *southernmost section*, Building C, is a one-story red brick structure, with steel framing and support columns. This building was added in 1928. The east façade reveals a sawtooth roof pattern, which carries metal-framed, hinged vent windows running the width of the building. These windows are covered with a rubber membrane roofing. Cement-aggregate coping stones finish the roof line. Steel-framed windows are set in openings with limestone sills, on the side walls. This structure replaced a paved, brick-walled courtyard which had a three-bay garage and gated entrance facing Barth Avenue. Several walls of this garage were incorporated in the addition. The south façade, facing a newly paved parking lot, has two garage openings remaining, and carries a boxed rain gutter with decorative holding straps.

A detached, two-story, red brick Boiler House, also built 1928, lies in the southwest corner of the property. This building is five bays long and four bays wide. Each bay is recessed and carry limestone window sills. On the east and west facades the original window openings have been kept. The south façade has a coal chute door which has been retained, and a single leaf door which has been sealed shut. This façade has two-story recessed panels, as does the north façade. The raised parapet, running around the building, has five square water drain holes at each bay, on the east façade, emptying into square gutters with decorative brackets; the new roof is rubber membrane.

A concrete water table skirts the Boiler House. There is a single leaf door on the west façade, and the current main entrance, with a modern aluminum door, lies at the west end of the north façade, with a metal framed window above. There was a banded red brick smokestack attached to this building on the north façade; it was demolished c1990. A utility tunnel, no longer in use, connected with the main building.

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Wheeler Arts Community  
Marion County, Indiana

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**Narrative description, cont.**

The north half of Building B, first floor, included space that had been devoted to heat treatment, washing, assembly, and loading facilities for carburetor production. The south half interior space had been offices with a central lobby access. These have been converted to apartments, with new wall arrangements, utilizing original doorways and trim.

The main, double-back, stairway has been refurbished and retains the original decorative metal railing. It rises from the front entrance parlor on the east side of the building. The front entrance parlor and street entrance stairs are finished with polished terrazzo flooring which remains. The name "Ransburg," a subsequent owner, appears in metal outline letters on the top step. A new entrance, at the southwest corner of building B, has been established. This leads to the theater (room 138) and incorporates an enclosed vestibule and wheelchair ramps.

On the second level, the original office spaces off the original ell-shaped central hall have been converted to apartments. Towards the rear of Building B, some wall partitions were removed, and different wall arrangements installed. Remaining original doors and trim have been incorporated into the apartments. On the original short north leg of the central hall there was the corporate President's office with the original dark paneling and company safe retained. The next offices in line, also converted to apartments, were the Manager, General Office, Cashier, Superintendent, and Drafting Room. There are a mix of original glass pane and solid wood doors. All modern dropped ceilings have been removed, restoring original ceiling heights.

The apartment lofts 216, 236 (Photographs 32-36 ), at the center of building A/B, and on the west side of building B, are typical of the apartment treatments. These loft apartments continue the exposed surface, industrial look. Specifically, loft 216 has exposed brick outer walls, and loft 236 features a skylight running the full width of the loft. Both lofts have blond-finish entrance and closet doors, clear-finished wood floors, and kitchens with sharp angles and edges. Loft 216 also includes a painted structural I-beam running under the ceiling; at the east end of the loft is a new window to the adjacent hall.

The loft apartment no. 229 (Photographs 37-45) is different from the others in that it incorporates many original features left from former office use. These were the main executive offices for the Wheeler-Schebler Carburetor Co. They have wood floor, door, and window trim which has been repaired and repainted. The hallways and other areas have hanging fluorescent light fixtures, and exposed electrical conduit, along with exposed ventilation ductwork. There



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Wheeler Arts Community  
Marion County, Indiana

**Narrative description, cont.**

are original frosted, painted, and clear glass windows in the interior walls: some new and some original. All the rooms have the full exposed ceiling heights. The new kitchen space features an unfinished wood bridge over commercial-looking ranges and counter tops. The industrial look is repeated in the overhead light with metal guards.

The first and second floor hallways (photographs 15, 18, 21 - 1<sup>st</sup> floor; 24 - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor; 28, 29, 30, 31 - stairways) feature exposed brick, as well as finished walls that are curved and straight. Exposed building parts include ventilation tubing, light fixtures and electrical conduit; lights hang from exposed concrete ceilings. On the first and second floors there are elliptically curved hallways with finished and painted walls, with recessed lighting. The rough industrial look is repeated with the dropped, unfinished plywood false ceiling with recessed lighting. In these hallways, the door and hall openings are squared off with no trim except for an unfinished metal kickplate. Original wooden hanging brackets are painted for a highlighted effect. The elliptical curve is repeated on the second floor at the north end of the building. All hallway doors are blond-finished with clear transom lights at the top. The stairways retain their original configuration and shape of railings; they have all been repainted and have had an industrial look accented by added guy wires.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Wheeler Arts Community  
Marion County, Indiana

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## Narrative Statement of Significance

### Criterion A History

The Wheeler-Schebler Carburetor Company (WSC) factory complex is historically significant to the Indianapolis, Indiana, and national automobile industry. This company contributed carburetors to a great many automobile companies both in- and out-of-state. The complex is also important in that it remains as one of the last of several historic automobile parts factories in Indianapolis.

The Wheeler-Schebler Carburetor Company was initially founded as the Schebler Carburetor Co. in Indianapolis in 1907, and was first located at 127-131 North Alabama Street (demolished), in the near downtown area. By the end of 1907, this company was located at the Langsenkamp-Wheeler Brass Works (illus. #3), a foundry and finishing plant located at 1208-1220 Shelby Street. Frank H. Wheeler is listed as president, William Langsenkamp, Jr. as vice-president, and Henry Langsenkamp as secretary-treasurer. In the 1910 city directory they are listed as manufacturers of carburetors and magnetos, and as located at the Langsenkamp Brass Works on Shelby Street, at the same address.

F. H. Wheeler (1864-1921) grew up in Manchester, Iowa and came to Indianapolis as a traveling salesman in 1904. That same year he formed a partnership (sources list a Partnership and Co-partnership c1909) with George M. Schebler (1865-1942) to manufacture automobile carburetors and magnetos. They worked out of a rented room in downtown Indianapolis, on North Alabama Street before moving to the Shelby Street plant of the Langsenkamp Brass Works, adjacent to the future site of their factory. Wheeler provided financial backing and management skills, while Schebler ran the engineering and production departments.

G. M. Schebler, a native of Oldenburg, Indiana, had invented one of the first successful gasoline carburetors, earning a patent in 1902. He continued to earn patents until at least 1915. Schebler later built a prototype car with a 12-cylinder engine, on a Premier chassis, in association with the Marion Motor Car Company at 323 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

Wheeler, along with Carl G. Fisher, James Allison, and Arthur C. Newby, shared ownership of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (IMS), which incorporated February 9, 1909. Wheeler was second vice president, after Newby. Wheeler was also one of the co-founders of the Indianapolis Athletic Club, and was a member of the Columbia Club, and the Scottish Rite and Shrine associations.

His association with auto racing was perhaps most strongly represented by the creation of the Wheeler-Schebler Trophy in 1909. He and Schebler ordered Tiffany & Co., of New York City, to build a tall silver trophy cup (illus. 5) at a cost of \$5,000. This cup was to be awarded to

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Wheeler Arts Community  
Marion County, Indiana

## Narrative Statement of Significance, cont.

### Criterion A History

the race car builder whose machine used a "Schebler brand carburetor and had won three Indianapolis 500 races. The trophy was retired by Harry Hartz, builder of the front-wheel drive "Miller-Hartz Special," in 1932, and is in the collections of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame Museum, 4790 West 16<sup>th</sup> Street. Wheeler also offered a \$2,500 prize purse to be awarded to those race cars carrying WSC carburetor equipment. The W-S trophy was comparable in size and stature to the Borg Warner Trophy marked with the latest Indianapolis 500 winner.

By 1912, WSC had sold more than 1,500,000 carburetors and had eighteen sales branches across the United States. Business proved successful enough for the WSC to hire the Indianapolis architects Dietrich A. Bohlen & Son to design, in 1911-12, with the assistance of Herbert Lawrence Bass of Indianapolis, their first factory building (section A, concrete) facing Sanders Street. In 1912, Wheeler also had his mansion "Hawkeye" built on Cold Spring Road, next to Carl Fisher's mansion.

Over the period of 1904-1919, according to the U.S. Census of Manufacturers, the company was part of a national trend of increased automobile parts production. The industry grew from eleven establishments in 1904 to 172 in 1919. Within this period, in 1916, the WSC was incorporated and "...organized to manufacture and sell... all kinds of machinery, machinery parts, automobiles, automobile equipment, automobile parts, motors, engines, carburetors, magnetos, ...accessories, novelties, and supplies." This expansive incorporation would be matched later by the factory's subsequent owners who made a wide range of products, in plastics and Styrofoam; perhaps the twentieth century equivalent to cast brass products. An *Indianapolis News* article of December 1919, which described automobile and parts factory construction all over the city, mentions a cost of \$100,000 for work on the first two connected buildings.

Banking on the success of the IMS, Wheeler sponsored the construction of the Twin Cities Motor Speedway in Minneapolis in 1916. Failure of this venture forced him to sell his interest in the IMS. In 1915, Wheeler had purchased his partner's interest in the WSC for \$1,000,000. Although no longer associated with the IMS he remained involved With automobile affairs as president of WSC and the Langsenkamp Brass Works, and as director of the Stutz Fire Engine Company, all located in Indianapolis. Wheeler died in 1921, committing suicide, apparently depressed over complications arising from a diabetic condition.

American automobiles for which WSC provided carburetors included national makes: Case, Chandler, Cleveland, Dagmar, Du Pont, Kissel, Gardner, Reo, Roamer, and Wills Ste. Claire. Indiana-built automobile using WSC parts included Auburn, Duesenberg, Lexington, Marmon, and McFarlan. Larger national companies, such as Ford and Dodge were also supplied,

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Wheeler Arts Community  
Marion County, Indiana

**Narrative Statement of Significance, cont.**

Criterion A History

as well as some motorcycle companies. The company's manufacturing plant included testing labs, casting, pickling, machining, assembly, and cleaning departments.

The WSC shared production and storage facilities with the Langsenkamp-Wheeler Brass Works, located across the street, with a Shelby Street address. Towards the mid-1930s, WSC had become the Marvel-Schebler Carburetor Company, in a merger of the WSC and Marvel Manufacturing Co., which subsequently became a division of the Borg-Warner Corporation.

After parts production ceased at this plant, the buildings were sold to the Harper J. Ransburg Corporation, by 1951, which manufactured floral displays and novelties and pioneered the manufacture of electrostatic painting equipment. This company became Ransburg Electric, and the buildings served as their home office and manufacturing facility. Subsequent owners were the Robert L. Hartley Corporation, c1960-1985, makers of Styrofoam packing pellets and other products. This business was sold to American Excelsior which vacated the property in 1995.

Criterion C Architecture

This complex is all that remains of a larger collection of industrial buildings that lay between Barth Avenue and Shelby Street. An illustration (illus. #4) appearing in the 1913 Indianapolis Motor Speedway program, is a birds-eye view of this complex, looking southwest. The eastern portion was torn down in 1963 for a supermarket and adjoining parking lots which remain. Nineteenth century residential neighborhoods lie to the west and south, and remain intact. These are complemented by the Fountain Square Commercial Area Historic District (listed in the National Register 1982) lying one block north. The application for this factory has been preceded by the auto manufacturing-related National Register listing of the Cole Motor Car Company factory at 730 East Washington Street (1983) and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (1975).

This complex represents the transition between the nineteenth century automobile factories built of brick, with wood-columned support and small wood-framed windows, to the modern masonry and reinforced concrete structures of the twentieth century which carried larger metal and wood sash windows.

Whereas many of the remaining automobile factories and showrooms in Indianapolis have had their original fenestration and materials replaced or altered, the WSC had nearly all its original fenestration, with original materials.

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Wheeler Arts Community  
Marion County, Indiana

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## Narrative Statement of Significance, cont.

### Criterion C Architecture

The original 1911-1912 concrete Building A remains as one of the earliest re-inforced concrete structures of Indianapolis. This building was one of several purpose-built automobile related structures built in Indianapolis at the time. Similar structures would include the Vermont Street Parking Garage, the Maxwell-Briscoe showroom at 363-265 North Illinois Street, and the Ideal Motor Car Company factory at 221 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street. These buildings featured fireproof construction, fewer support columns, and increased natural lighting and ventilation.

The only other unaltered auto-related factory on the south side of the city is the Lafayette Motors Company (1920) at S. Holt Road and Kentucky Avenue. The Indianapolis Rubber Company (1910-1930) complex on East Georgia Street, southeast of downtown, has been totally remodeled, employing the original concrete frame; as does the Marmon Motor Car Co. building within the Lilly Industrial Coatings building complex on Kentucky Avenue, southwest of downtown.

Another historic property, listed in the National Register (1985), associated with Wheeler is his mansion, "Hawkeye," at 3040 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis. The only other property associated with Schebler, in Indianapolis, is the apartment building, Wil-Fra-Mar (c1986), which was his residence in 1906. This building was included in the Apartments and Flats of Downtown Indianapolis Thematic Resources listed in 1983.

### Survey and nomination summary:

A survey (1984-85) of auto-related factory and showroom sites in Indianapolis, conducted by the Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission, led to an automobile Industry thematic district National Register nomination (1986) resulting in the listing of many of the properties, including WSC, on the Indiana State Register of Historic Places. This nomination included automobile parts and automobile factories, and showrooms.

In 1990, the "Indianapolis-Marion County Automobile Industry, 1890-1940: Historic Context Study & Property-Type Analysis" was completed and accepted by the SHPO. Automobile parts factories are discussed in the property-type analysis. This study was written to aid Indiana's comprehensive historic preservation planning process. It includes a city- and state-wide overview of automobile manufacturing history, as manifested in the buildings constructed to serve this industry.



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Wheeler Arts Community  
Marion County, Indiana

Section number 8, 9 Page 10

**Summary**

The Wheeler-Schebler Carburetor Company factory meets Criteria A and C. Manufacturing of automobiles and automobile components played a significant role in the growing industrial base of Indianapolis. The Wheeler-Schebler plant is a rare survivor from the first decades of the auto-related industry in Indianapolis, and under Criteria C, this plant exemplifies innovations in industrial plant design. This factory was designed by a collaboration of well-known local architects, D.A. Bohlen & Son, assisted by H. L. Bass.

**Section 9: Bibliography:**

D. A. Bohlen & Son, and H. L. Bass, architectural plans, 1911-12, 1919, 1928  
Alan Conant, 10818 Jessie Court Indianapolis, Indiana 46236

Correspondence of Southeast Neighborhood Development Corporation, Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission, and Indiana's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

Richard Gallagher, Carburetor Exchange Co., Indianapolis, December 11, 2000.

Indianapolis Automobile Industry Thematic District National Register nomination, 1986.  
Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission (IHPC), 2001 City-County Building,  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202 and SHPO

*Indianapolis* [magazine] May 1978

Indianapolis Marion County Automobile Industry, 1890-1940: Historic Context Study &  
Property Type Analysis, 1990. IHPC, SHPO

Indianapolis Motor Speedway, *Indianapolis 500 Programs*, 1910-1930

*Indianapolis News*, December 20, 1919, p.15, c.8

*Official Gazette of the United States Patent Office*, 1902-1930

R. L. Polk *Indianapolis City Directories*, 1907-1995

Sanborn Map Co., *Insurance Atlas, Indianapolis, Marion County*

*U. S. Census of Manufacturers*

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 11

Wheeler Arts Community  
Marion County, Indiana

**Neighborhood description:**

The South District Headquarters of the Indianapolis Police Department, with two large parking lots lies to the north of the factory. On the east side there is Bud's Supermarket, and parking lot. Late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century houses comprise the west and south areas adjacent to the factory. Location of the factory next to residential areas was possible before the advent of zoning laws prevalent in the 1920s and beyond.

**Verbal boundary description and justification:**

This factory site is bounded on the east by Barth Avenue, on the north by Sanders Street, on the west by the alley which lies one-half block west of Barth Avenue, and on the south by Orange Street. The factory site property lines abut the sidewalks and alley. This nomination includes the Boiler House, parking lot, and Building C. They were not part of the rehab tax credit project.

**Legal description:**

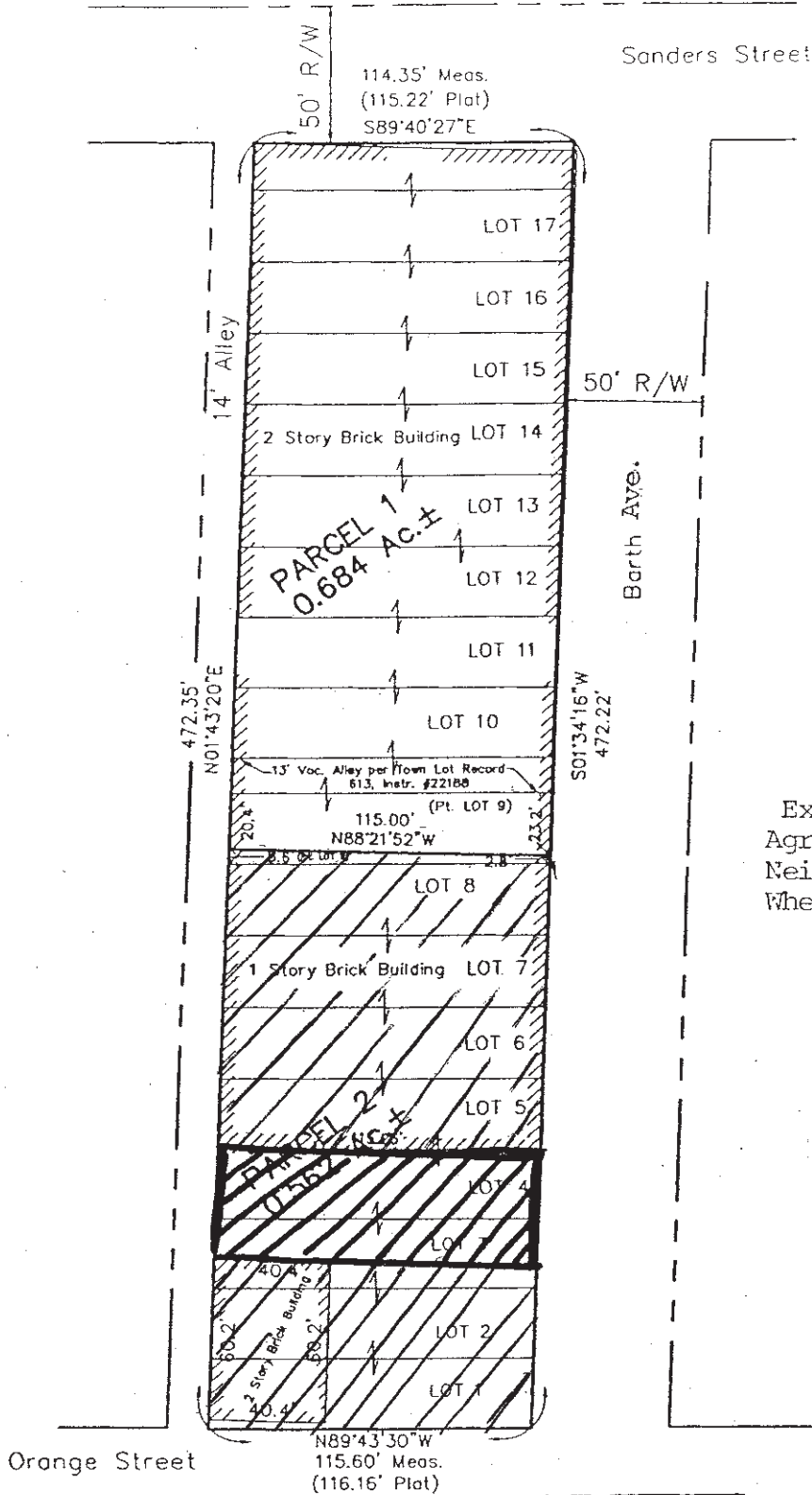
Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 in David Munson's Subdivision of Lot 6 in the plat and Subdivision made by D.S. Beaty Administrator De Bonis Non with the will annexed of the Estate of Jacob Birkenmeyer, deceased, of a part of the Northeast quarter of Section 13, in Township 15 North of Range 4 east in the City of Indianapolis, the plat of said David Munson's Subdivision appearing of record in the office of the Recorder of Marion County, Indiana, in Plat Book 7, Page 149 thereof.

Also, the vacated alley between Lots 9 and 10 in said Subdivision, as vacated by proceedings recorded August 15, 1919 in Town Lot Record 613, as Instrument No. 22188; and 15 feet North of and adjacent to Lot 17, being part of the vacated Street as shown in Plat Book 8, Page 72 in the office of the Recorder of Marion County, Indiana.

Also a part of Lot 9 in said Subdivision described as follows:

Beginning at the Northeast corner of said Lot 9; thence South 01 degrees 34 minutes 16 seconds (assumed bearing), along the East line of said lot 23.20 feet; thence North 88 degrees 21 minutes 52 seconds West, along an existing building division line, 115.00 feet to the West line of said lot 9; thence North 01 degrees 43 minutes 20 seconds East, along said West line, 20.40 feet to the Northwest corner of said lot 9; thence South 89 degrees 43 minutes 30 seconds East, along the North line of said Lot 9; thence South 89 degrees 43 minutes 30 seconds East, along the North line of said Lot 9, 115.00 feet to the point of beginning.

(see map on following page)



Scale: 1"=100'

Exhibit C to Parking Easement  
Agreement by and between Southeast  
Neighborhood Development, Inc. and  
Wheeler Arts Community, LLP



THIS SECTION IN  
TAX-CREDIT REHAB  
PROJECT



THIS SECTION NOT IN  
TAX-CREDIT REHAB  
PROJECT

MAP SHOWING PROJECT BOUNDARIES

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional documentation Page 13

Wheeler Arts Community  
Marion County, Indiana

**Additional Documentation**

**Photograph list:**

Wheeler Arts Community (Wheeler-Schebler Carburetor Company)  
Marion County, Indiana  
Photographer: Alan Conant  
October 20, 2001, October 20, 2003

**Photograph negatives located:**

Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
Room W 274  
402 West Washington Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Photo no.:

View:

**Exterior views:**

1. Looking southwest, from adjacent parking lot.
2. Looking southwest, from north side of Sanders Street.
3. Looking northwest, from east side of Barth Avenue.
4. Looking northeast, from alley adjacent to west side of building.
5. Looking southwest, from east side of Barth Avenue.
6. Looking southeast across Sanders Street.
7. Looking east at new theater entrance adjacent to alley.
8. Looking west at Building B, across Barth Avenue.
9. Looking southwest at Building A, across Sanders Street.
10. Looking south at Building A, across Sanders Street.
11. Looking northwest at Building C, detail.
12. Looking northwest at Boiler House, across Orange Street.
13. Looking southwest at Boiler House.
14. Looking southwest at Boiler House, detail.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number additional doc. Page 14

Wheeler Arts Community  
Marion County, Indiana

Additional Documentation  
Photographs, cont.

Interior views:

First floor:

15. Looking north, Building B, hallway adjacent to theater
16. Looking north, Building B, theater.
17. Looking south, Building B, theater.
18. Looking east, Building B, corridor.
19. Looking southeast, Building A, lobby.
20. Looking east, Building A, office 111.
21. Looking south, Building A, corridor.
22. Looking east, Building A, corridor at north end of building.
23. Looking northwest, Building A, elevator lobby.

Second floor:

24. Looking east, Building A, corridor at north end of building.
25. Looking northwest, Building A, skylight over lobby.
26. Looking northwest, Building A, railing under skylight, adjacent to lobby.
27. Looking north, Building A, bridge under skylight.
28. Looking southwest, Building A, southwest corner stairway.
29. Looking west, Building B, southeast corner stairway.
30. Looking east, Building B, southeast corner stairway, towards loft apt. 229.
31. Looking south, Building B, southwest corner stairway.
32. Looking west, Building B, loft apt. 236.
33. Looking east, Building B, loft apt. 236.
34. Looking northeast at skylight, Building B, loft apt. 216.
35. Looking south, Building B, loft apt. 216.
36. Looking northeast, Building B, loft apt. 216.
37. Looking south, Building B, loft apt. 229.
38. Looking southeast, Building B, loft apt. 229.
39. Looking east, Building B, loft apt. 229.
40. Looking west, Building B, kitchen, loft apt. 229.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number            Additional  
doc.            Page 15

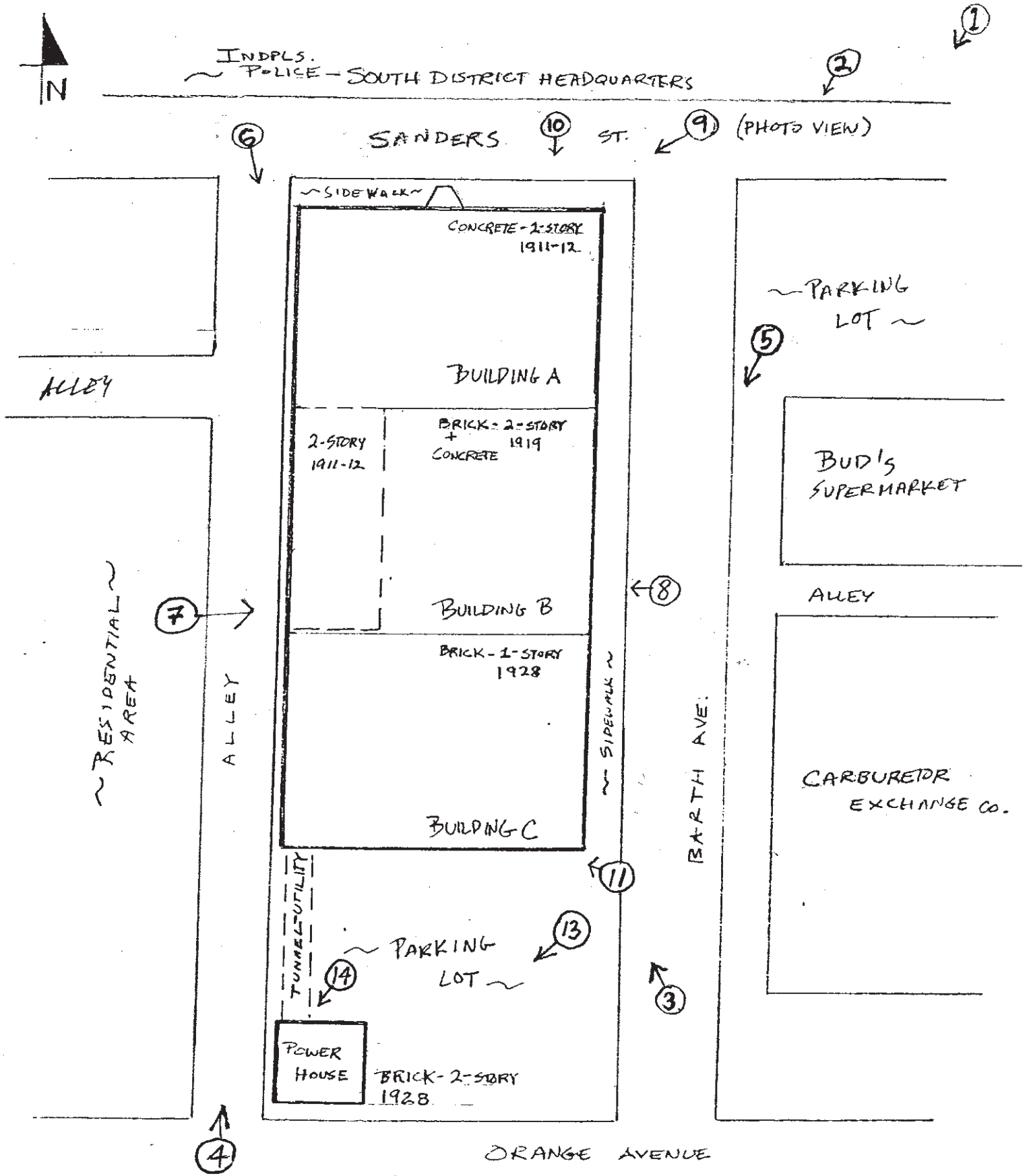
Wheeler Arts Community  
Marion County, Indiana

Photographs, cont.

- 41. Looking southwest, Building B, kitchen, loft apt. 229.
- 42. Looking southeast, Building B, loft apt. 229.
- 43. Looking west, Building B, loft apt. 229, towards company safe.
- 44. Looking west, Building B, loft apt. 229, company safe, door detail.
- 45. Looking southeast, Building B, loft apt. 229.

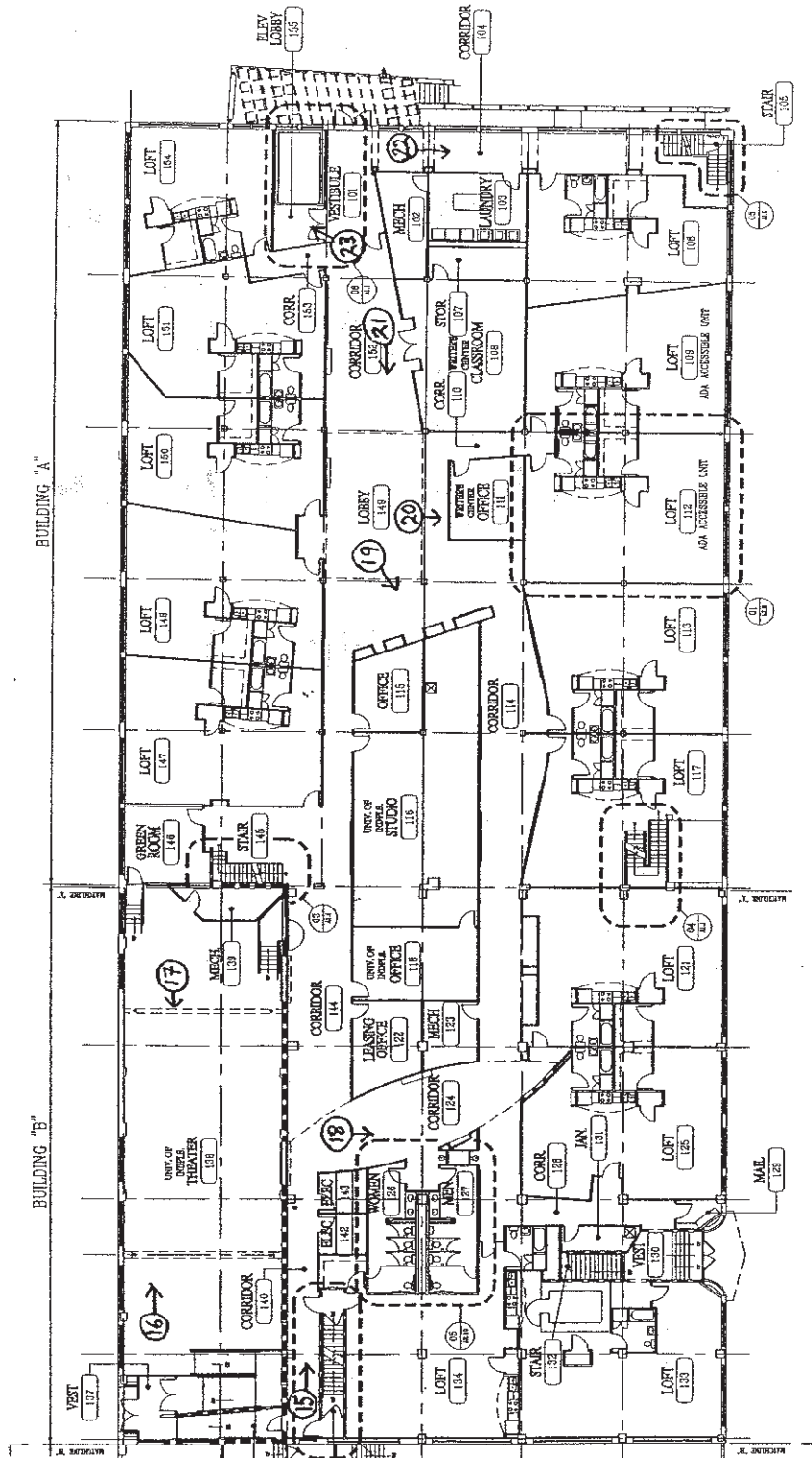


INDPLS.  
POLICE - SOUTH DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS



SITE PLAN

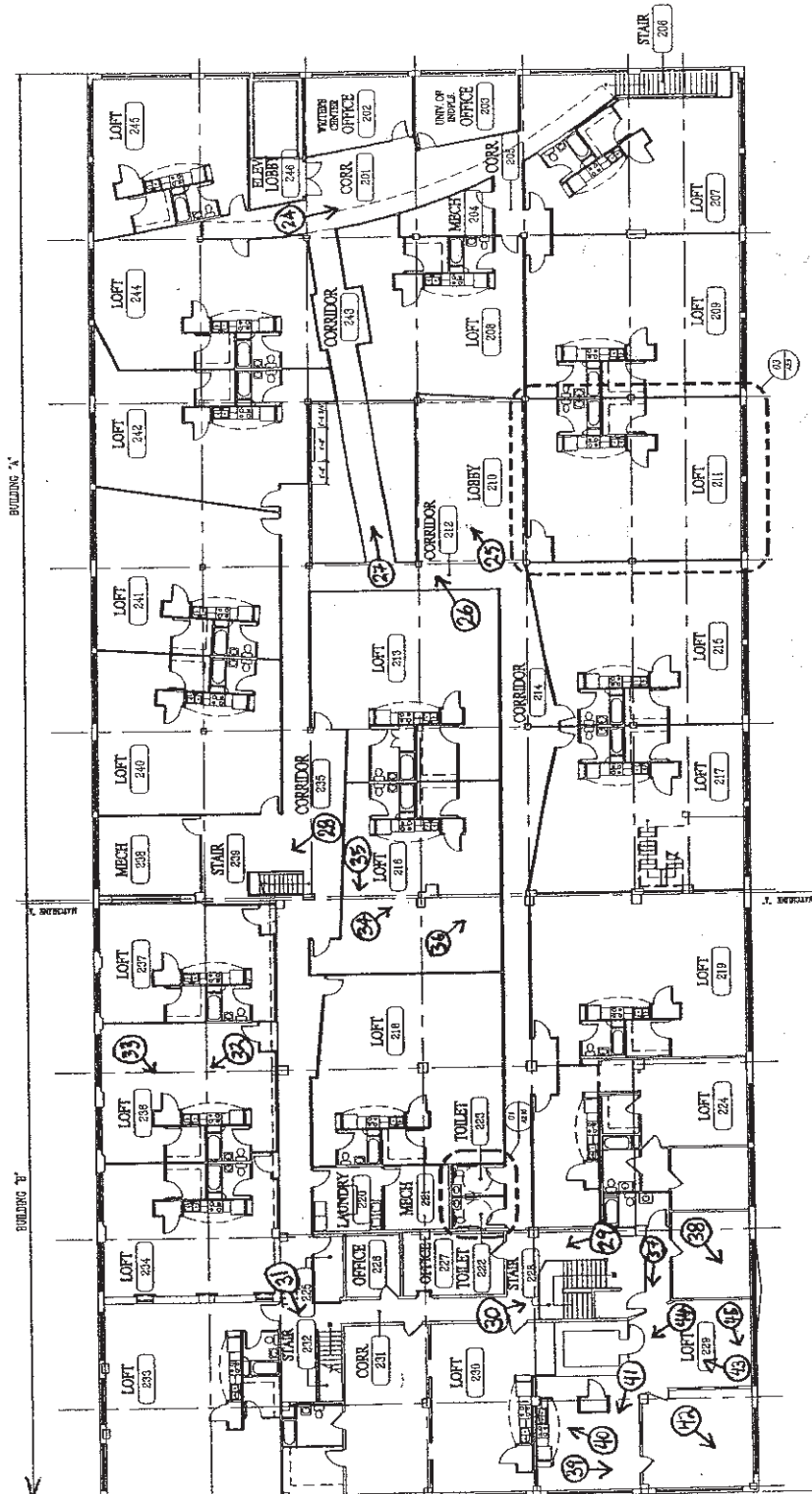
Wheeler Arts Community  
Marion County, Indiana



01 OVERALL FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE: NTS

KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS

Wheeler Arts Community  
Marion County, Indiana

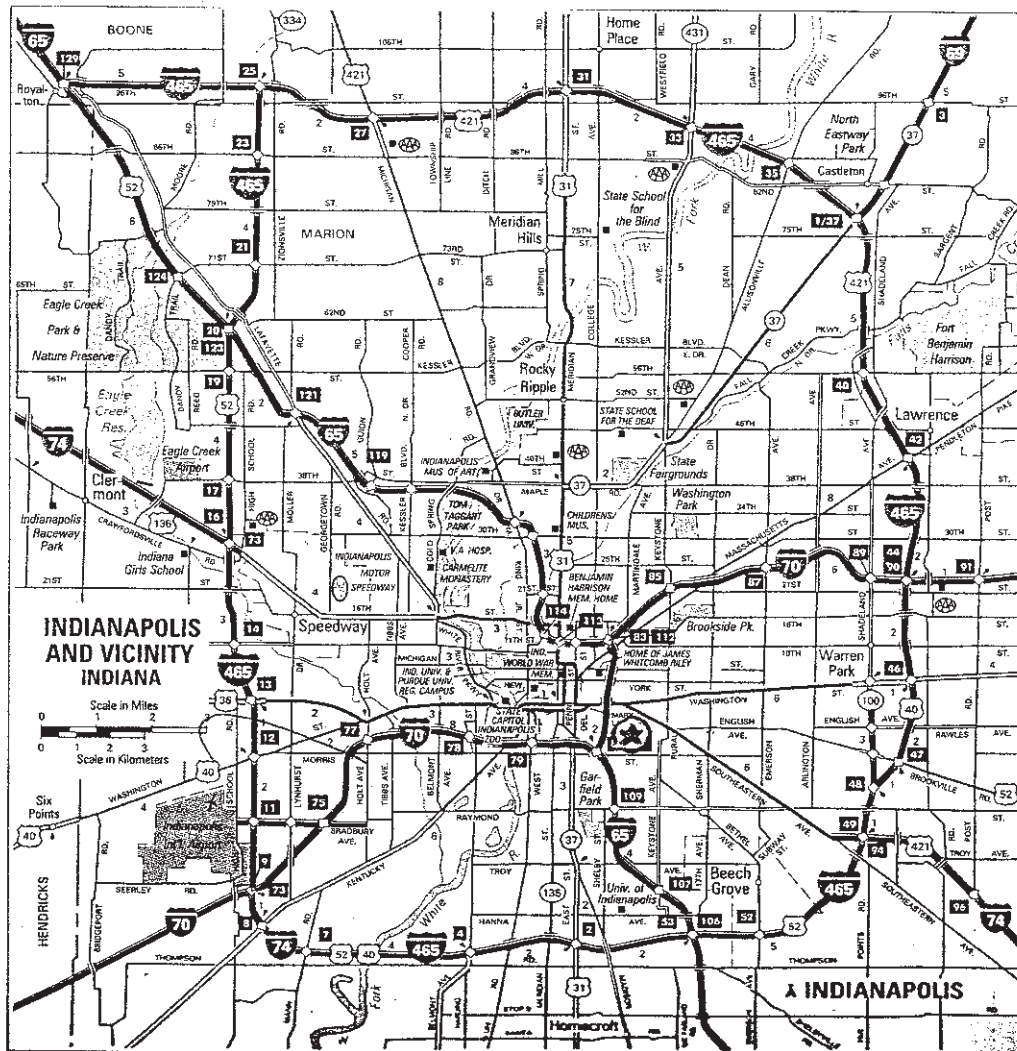


01 OVERALL SECOND FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE: NTS

KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS

Wheeler Arts Community  
Marion County, Indiana

Illustration 1



★ = Wheeler-Schebler Carburetor Co. Factory Buildings.

AAA Road Atlas, 1998



Illustration 2

Wheeler Arts Community  
Marion County, Indiana

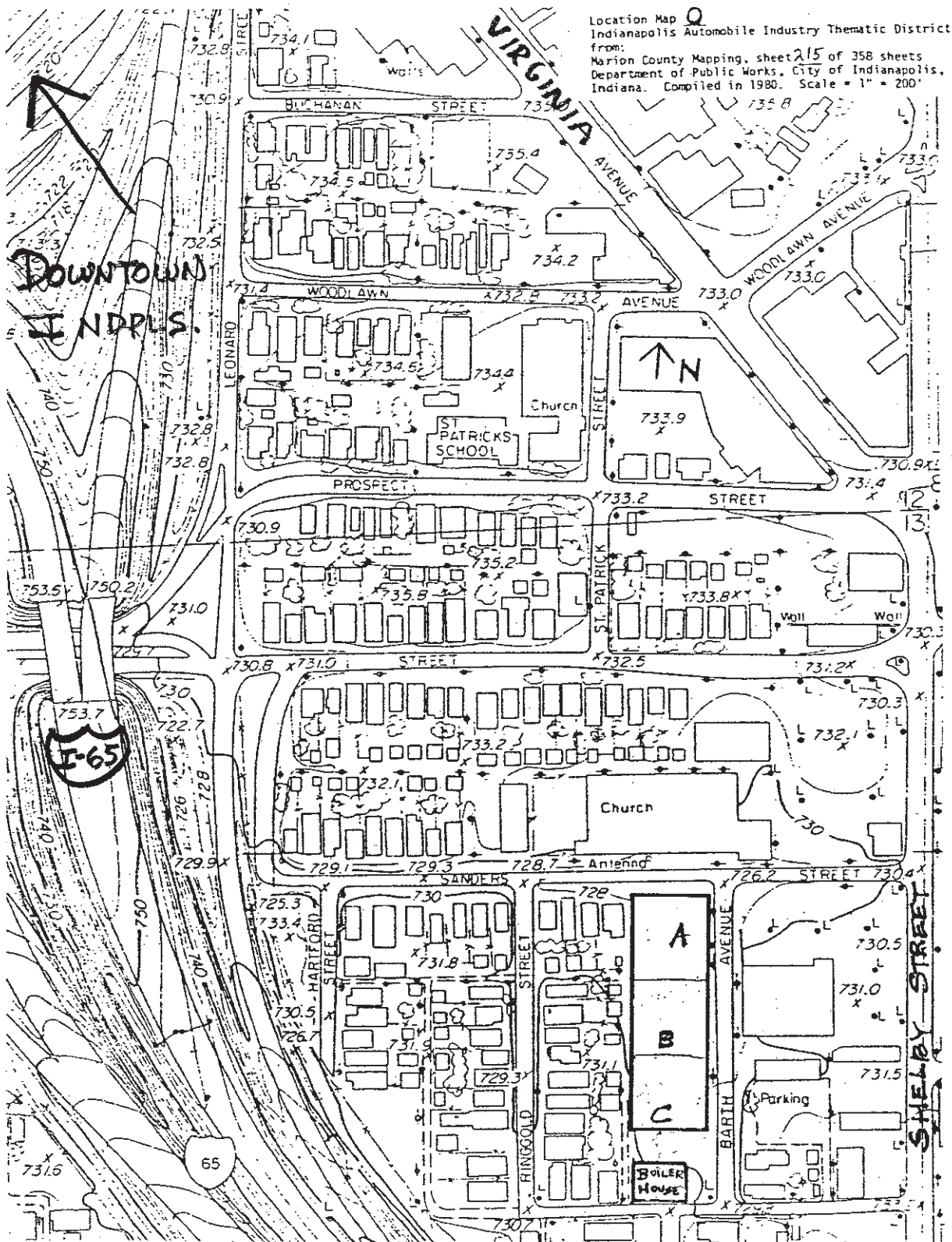


Illustration 3

Wheeler Arts Community  
Marion County, Indiana

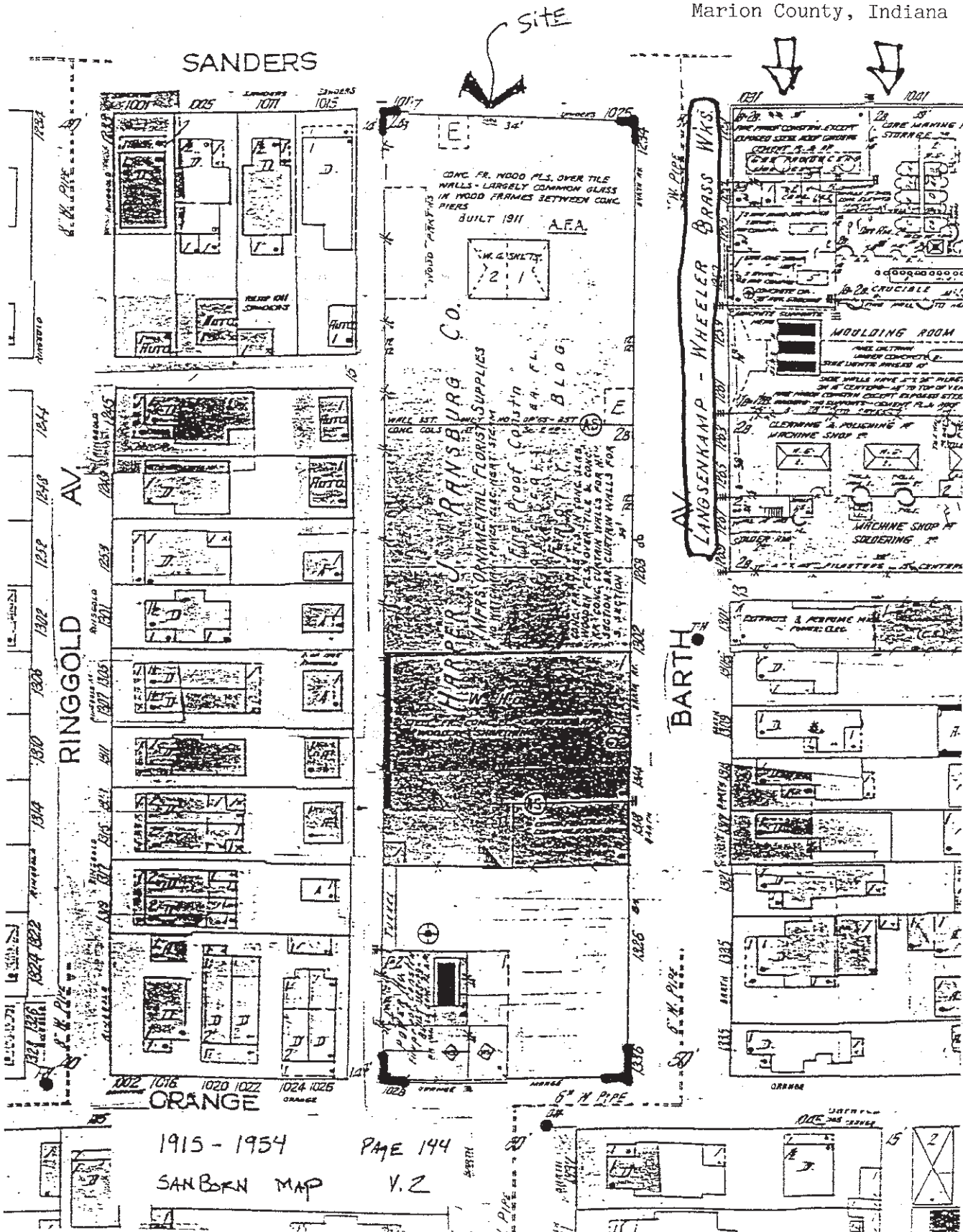
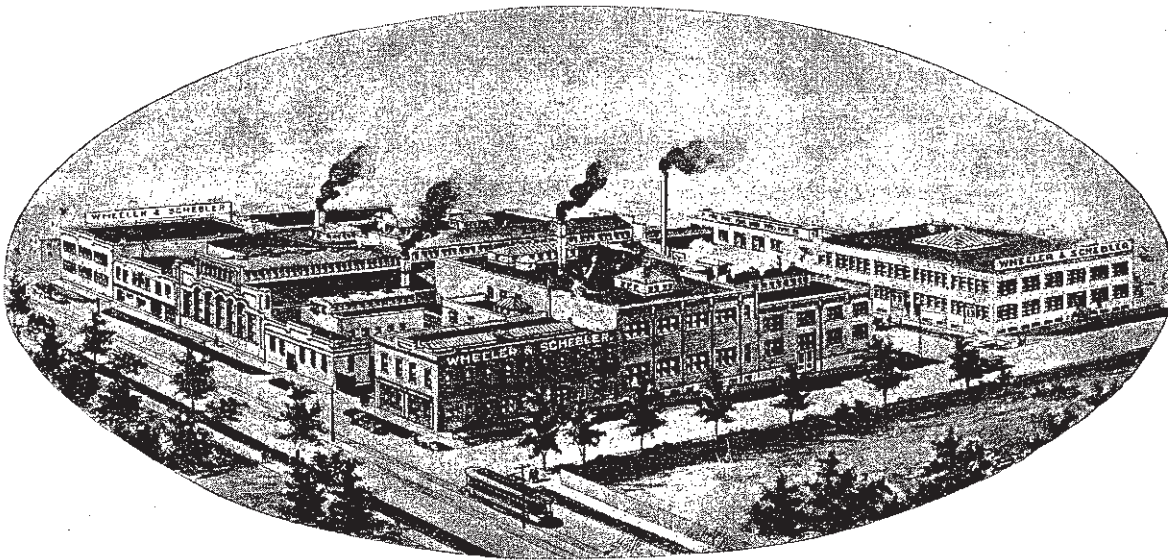


Illustration 4  
Wheeler Arts Community  
Marion County, Indiana

The Winners of the 1911-1912  
International 500-Mile Sweepstakes  
were both equipped with the  
**SCHEBLER CARBURETOR**

Manufactured in the



**Largest Carburetor Plant in the World**

Daily Capacity 4,000

**OVER 1,000,000 IN USE**

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**WHEELER AND SCHEBLER**

**Pioneers in Perfection of Carburetion**

**Manufacturers**

**INDIANAPOLIS, U. S. A.**

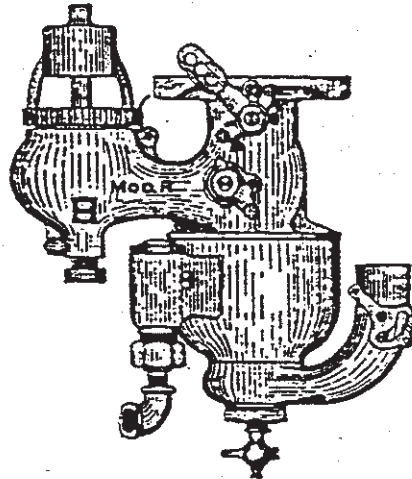
*Indianapolis Motor Speedway Program, 1913, inside front cover.*



Illustration 6

Wheeler Arts Community  
Marion County, Indiana

# 1,500,000 SCHEBLER



## CARBURETORS IN USE!

When a motor mechanic sees a Schebler on a motor he welcomes it as an old friend.  
Do you want service and satisfaction? We give service - our instruments satisfaction.

The  
Factory  
Behind



Site

The  
Schebler  
Carburetor

Daily Capacity, 4000 Instruments

## WHEELER & SCHEBLER INDIANAPOLIS INDIANA

"Pioneers in Perfection of Carburetion"

### BRANCHES:

Fry & McGill Motor Supply Co. Denver, Colo.  
Automobile Accessories Co. Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Farris-Dawson Auto Supply Co. Dallas, Tex.  
Inter-State Electric Co. New Orleans, La.  
Reubard Bros. Co. Minneapolis, Minn.  
Manufacturers' Supply Co. Philadelphia, Pa.

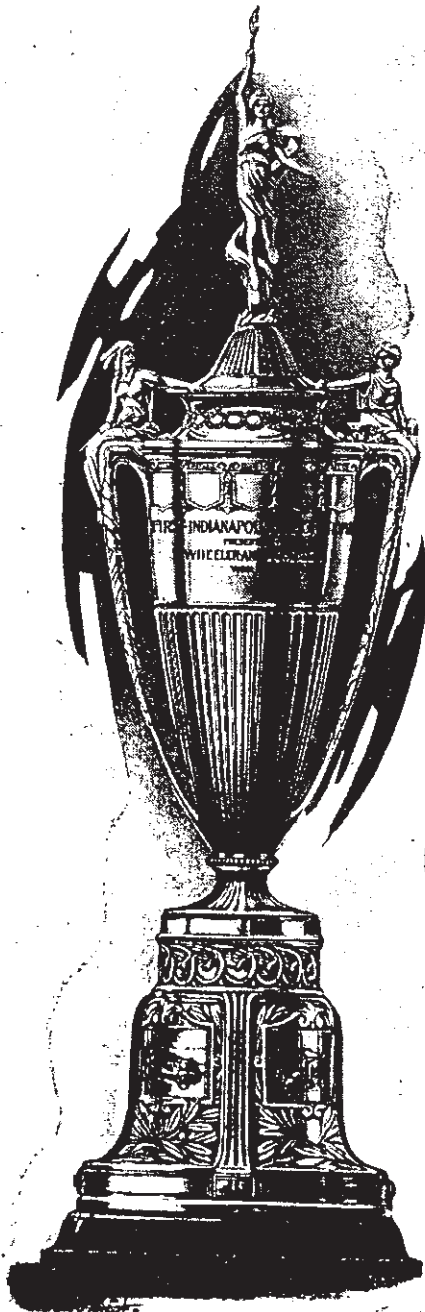
Weinstock-Richols Co. Los Angeles, Cal.  
Pennsylvania Rubber & Svc. Co. Cleveland  
Wheeler & Schebler Chicago  
Wheeler & Schebler Detroit  
Fred Campbell St. Louis, Mo.  
W. J. Connel Boston, Mass.

Equipment Co. Kansas City, Mo.  
Elyse-Austell Co. Atlanta, Ga.  
J. C. Nichols New York City  
Weinstock-Richols San Francisco  
Fairbanks, Morse & Co., Ltd. London, England  
Canadian Fairbanks-Morse Co. (All Principal  
Canadian Cities)

Indianapolis Motor Speedway Program, 1912, inside front cover.

Wheeler Arts Community  
Marion County, Indiana

# The Wheeler-Schebler Trophy



The Wheeler-Schebler trophy, perhaps the richest, most magnificent of all the cups for which auto race drivers compete, and for which auto makers put out the best they have in order to win, goes to the car in the 500-mile race ahead at the end of the 400th mile.

According to the conditions of the race, the Wheeler-Schebler cup and the honor that goes with the winning of it, makes it certain that there will be much speed-making during the first 400 miles. Thus we have a race within a race; a prize outshaded by a greater prize.

The race for the Wheeler-Schebler trophy is one of the historic classics that used to be run at the Indianapolis Speedway. It was revived this year, along with some other feature events that were a part of past Speedway programs.

In auto race circles there was a demand for the running of those trophy races including the Wheeler-Schebler cup event and instead of a special day for those events, they were put into the Memorial day event, so that every mile of the 500 miles would be an auto race.

The Wheeler-Schebler trophy is the most beautiful of all race cups. It was donated to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway by Frank H. Wheeler and George M. Schebler, the deed of gift stipulating that it should be raced for by cars of a maximum piston displacement of 500 cubic inches; that it should be won three times by one motor car before it should become the property of the makers of that car; that it should be raced for annually, the winner each year to remain in possession of the trophy until the next year; that the driver of the car is to be awarded \$1,000, provided his car is equipped with a Schebler carburetor.

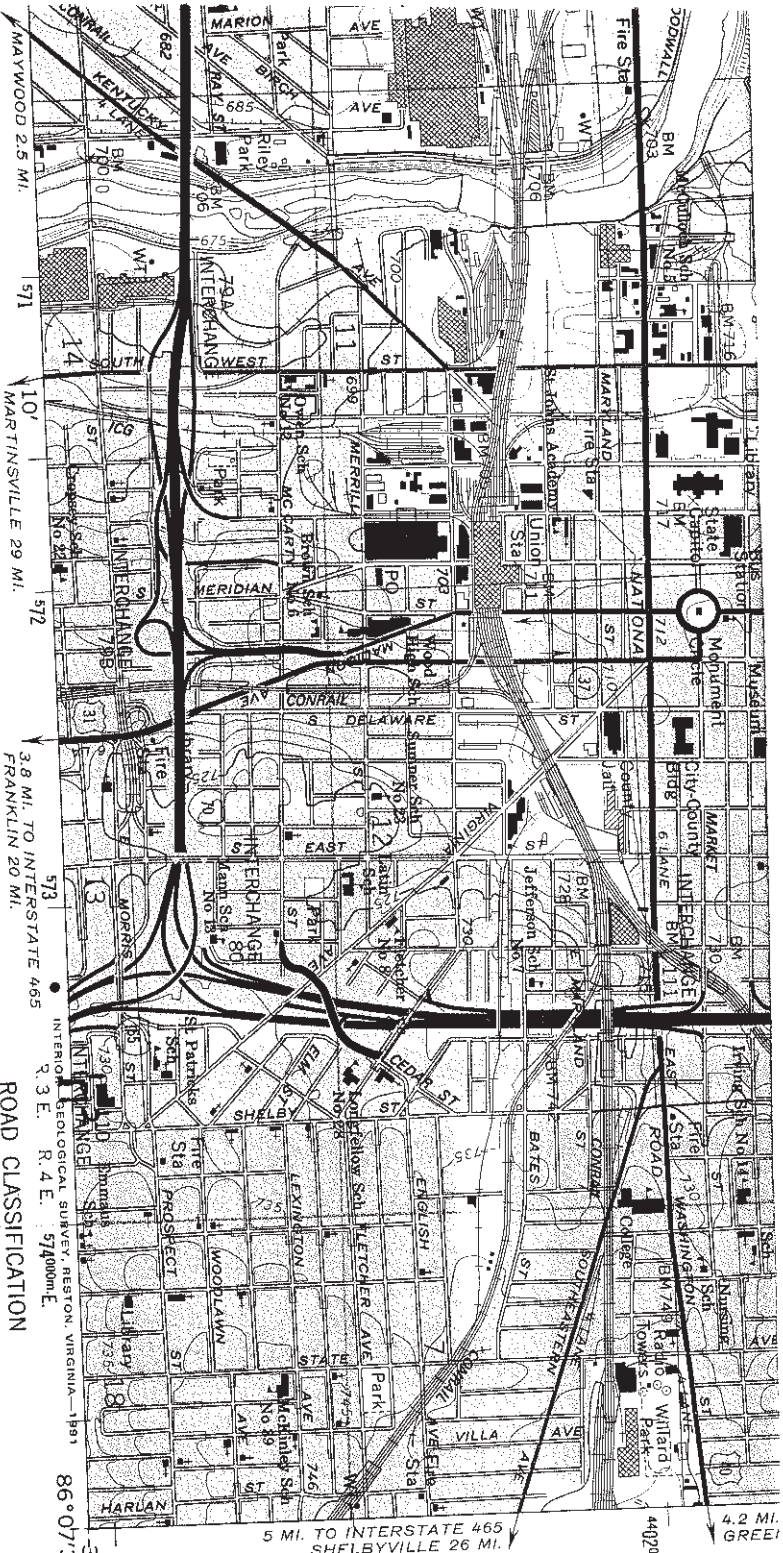
The deed of gift provided that in case the trophy was not raced for for a period of two years, ownership should revert to the donors, Messrs. Wheeler and Schebler.

The trophy is valued at \$10,000. It stands eight feet high and weighs 500 pounds troy. It was designed by Tiffany and Company.

The trophy has been raced for but twice—in 1909, when it was won conditionally by the Jackson, that car being ahead when the race was stopped at the 235th mile because of an accident.

The next year, on Decoration day, Ray Harroun in his Marmon Wasp finished ahead. Since then until recently the trophy has been in possession of the Nordyke & Marmon Company. But it has not been raced for since the 500-mile races were instituted at the Speedway in 1911 and consequently, ownership has reverted to the original donors.





ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
- Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
- Unimproved road; fair or dry weather
- Interstate Route
- U. S. Route
- State Route

INDIANAPOLIS WEST, IND.

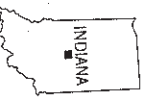
39086-G2-TF-024  
PHOTOINSPECTED 1984  
1967  
PHOTOREVISED 1980  
DMA 3763 I SW-SERIES V851

1234 BAKER AVE  
INDIANAPOLIS  
MARION COUNTY  
INDIANA  
WHEELER-SCHEBLER  
CARBONETAIL CO.

RACY STANDARDS  
80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204  
S IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of Indiana agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1980

QUADRANGLE LOCATION



INDIANAPOLIS WEST, INDIANA

1. 16 573500 440020
2. 16 573620 440200
3. 16 573620 440120
4. 16 573500 440070

(BEECH GROVE)  
3763 I NE





3763 (SE EAST)  
(INDIANAPOLIS EAST)

86° 07' 30"  
- 39° 45'

